



Flathead National Forest

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Kalispell, MT 59901

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News Release

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Flathead National Forest Hosting Two Open House Sessions

KALISPELL, MT - The Flathead National Forest is hosting two open house sessions in August on the topic of Use of Vegetation Modeling in Forest Planning. The first open house will be on Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, Montana. The same material will be presented the following evening, Wednesday, August 13, 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Swan Ecosystem Center in Condon.

Members of the forest plan revision team, including the silviculturist, wildlife biologist, and Regional analyst will provide information, present some preliminary outputs, and answer questions about the computer-based analytical modeling processes being used to evaluate vegetation conditions across the forest over time as it responds to various disturbances, such as fire or harvest.

The model being used is a tool used to help answer the following key questions that are required as part of revising the forest plan under the 2012 planning rule:

- * What did the landscape look like in the past? (Natural Range of Variation)
- * What do we want the landscape to look like in the future? (Desired Future Condition)
- * What are the expected trends in plant and animal communities in the future?
- * How might management activities influence the future landscape?

If you have any questions about the open house sessions please contact Joe Krueger, Forest Plan Revision Team Leader at (406)758-5243.

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Editor's Note: Attached is an example of a map output from the "Simulating Patterns and Processes at Landscape scales" model (SIMPPLLE) for the Swan Valley Geographic Area.